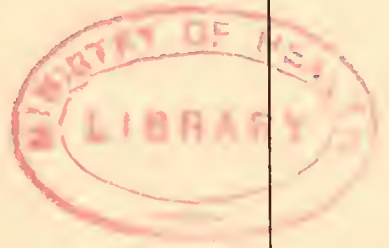


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BOROUGH OF SALE.



REPORT


ON THE

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE YEAR 1941.

FRANK APPLETON, M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

J. T. COCKROFT M.S.I.A.
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ending 31st December, 1941.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of
the Borough of Sale.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the work of your Public Health Department for the year 1941. This report is drawn up on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health Circular 2604.

As with last year, this is an interim report only, and is confined to a bare statement of vital statistics and particulars of Infectious Diseases, and, in accordance with the above circular, the population figure is not included. After the termination of this war it will be my duty or the duty of my successor to make a report dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year, giving separate statistics for each year in order that the annual records may, as far as practicable, be continuous and complete.

The year 1941 can be said to have been a satisfactory year from a Public Health point of view. The war, except for increasing their work, hardly affected those residents of this Borough who remained at home; very little time was spent in cold, damp or badly ventilated shelters. It was noted that generally speaking an improvement in the ventilation in the black-out had been effected, although many persons still regarded the provision of a black-out as an excuse for permanent sealing of the windows of a house.

The vital statistics are satisfactory and again show a decline in the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases, the only exception being Whooping Cough. The possibility of protective inoculation against Whooping Cough was discussed by the Health Committee and a scheme was considered which was put into effect during 1942.

Immunisation against Diphtheria received a fillip from Government propaganda. This district has always been well to the forefront in immunisation and the figures contained in the report on immunisation show a very gratifying response by the public.

For the first time in the history of this Borough, Scabies became a problem to be dealt with. As more than two thirds of the houses in this district have baths we had not the same difficulties as some other districts. The personnel at the First Aid Posts willingly gave their help in attacking the disease and never did it assume serious proportions.

Among the principal causes of death it will be noted that the deaths from Cancer and Malignant Disease increased, there being 63, compared with 46 in 1940. A similar increase occurred in the deaths from Cerebral Haemorrhage, the figure here being 50 as compared with 44 in 1940. Neither of these diseases are diseases of young people and an increase in these deaths is only to be expected as the age of the population increases.

The Public Health Committee of this Corporation are to be congratulated on the satisfactory state of health of the community. This is due in no small measure to the staff of the Public Health Department who have put forward every effort to attain this object. To the Chairman and members of that Committee I record my thanks for their generous support in any measure brought forward for the Public good.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK APPLETON,

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF SALE.

Statistical Summary and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area 3,628.5 acres.

Population.

The estimates of the population arrived at locally and by the Registrar General are not included in this report but the vital statistics have been worked out in the usual way.

Houses.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941)
according to rate books (approx.) 12,350

Rateable Value.

Rateable value of the district (end of 1941) £317,909
Sum represented by a 1d. rate... .. £1,259

Social Conditions of the Area.

There was undoubtedly an improvement in the standard of living among the poorer people of this area. For the first time since the last war many men were being paid wages which enabled them to provide adequately for their families. The dependants of men in the Forces were not so well placed as those with men in civilian employment, but the women often supplemented their incomes by working themselves and on the whole a general economic levelling up was apparent. However this may be, the nutrition of the people generally appeared to be well maintained and among the poorer persons to be improved.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1941.

Births.

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	280	232	512
Illegitimate	7	9	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	287	241	528

Birthrate per thousand of the Registrar

General's estimated resident population... 13.05

Birthrate for England and Wales 14.2

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	17	8	25
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	17	8	25
Rate per thousand (live and still births)			45.21

Deaths.	Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths	237	237	474
Rate per thousand of the Registrar General's estimated resident population
Deathrate for England and Wales, 1941...	12.9

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	Rate per thousand Deaths (live and still births)
Puerperal sepsis ...	—

Infantile Deaths.

All infants under one year of age—Total deaths	21
Deathrate of all infants per 1,000 live births	39.77
Deathrate of all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	39.06
Deathrate of all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	62.5

Deaths from Tuberculosis.

Respiratory System

Males	Females	Total
9	7	16

Non Respiratory System

Males	Females	Total
3	2	5
		<hr/>

Total Deaths...21

Deaths from Cancer.

Males	Females	Total
25	38	63

Deaths from Diarrhoea	Males	Females
under two years of age	1	2

Notes on Vital Statistics.

The principal causes of death were as follows:—

Diseases of Heart and Circulation ...	127	(147)
Cancer	63	(46)
Cerebral Haemorrhage.....	50	(44)
Pneumonia	21	(25)
Tuberculosis	21	(15)
Premature birth	6	(8)

The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1940.

Natural Increase in Population.

The number of births exceeded the number of deaths by 54.

Infantile Mortality and Maternal Mortality.

It will be noted that the infantile deaths show a decrease on the previous year, there being 21 infant deaths during 1941 as compared with 39 in 1940, and our infantile mortality rate is 39.77, as compared with 64.14 for 1940. The figure for the Country as a whole is 59.0.

The maternal mortality rate is nil, compared with 1.58 for 1940, and 2.23 for the country as a whole.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

The following Table shows the number of cases of each of the diseases notified during the year, the number sent to hospital and the deaths from these diseases.

Notifiable Diseases.

(Other than Tuberculosis) during 1941.

Disease.	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Small-Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	25	3	—
Diphtheria	14	14	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	27	2	21
Erysipelas	6	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	3	3	3
Measles	258	—	2
Whooping Cough	177	1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	2	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Total...	517	29	29

The following Table gives the age-incidence of the above mentioned Notifiable Diseases.

Age Periods	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Puerperal Pyrexia	Whooping Cough	Measles	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Enteric Fever	Dysentery
0—	—	—	1	—	—	17	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	1	—	—	22	13	—	—	—
2—	2	—	2	—	—	27	25	—	—	—
3—	2	1	—	—	—	22	27	—	—	—
4—	1	—	1	—	—	18	25	—	—	—
5—	8	5	4	—	—	59	152	1	1	—
10—	6	2	—	1	—	6	10	—	—	—
15—	—	1	2	—	—	1	3	—	—	1
20—	5	4	3	2	1	2	1	2	1	—
35—	1	—	4	1	—	2	2	—	1	—
45—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	8	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	25	14	27	6	1	177	258	3	3	1

Ward Distribution of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases.

	North	South	East	West	Central	St. Martins	St. Marys	Mersey	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	9	5	1	1	5	3	1	25
Diphtheria	1	2	1	5	—	2	5	—	14
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	6	7	8	1	—	2	2	1	27
Erysipelas	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	6
Ophthalmia Neonat..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2
Measles	24	43	48	7	18	67	40	11	258
Whooping Cough ..	28	47	46	12	15	11	9	9	177
Cerebro Spinal Men..	—	1	4	—	1	—	—	—	5
	60	111	112	26	55	87	57	25	511

Diphtheria.

The incidence of Diphtheria was less during 1941 than 1940 when it was again less than 1939. 109 cases were notified in 1936, 41 in 1937, 36 in 1938, 19 in 1939, 17 in 1940, 14 in 1941. This gives a rate of 0.34 per thousand of the population as compared with 0.42 for 1940. The rate for the country as a whole is 1.25, so that our rate is considerably below that for the country as a whole. Possibly one of the causes of the comparatively small number of cases of Diphtheria is the fact that immunisation has been carried on in this district for some considerable time.

There were no deaths from Diphtheria during the year 1941.

Diphtheria Immunisation in Sale.

1941. Schools and Clinics.

St. Joseph's School.....	74
St. Mary's School	21
St. Martin's School	40
St. Anne's School	85
Urban Road School	48
Worthington Road School	33
Glebelands Road School	35
Park Road School	77
Springfield School	38
Woodheys School	68
Girls' High School	22
Boys' High School	11
Sale Grammar School	29
Carlton House School	12
	<hr/>
Total	593
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Clinic	733
	<hr/>
Total	1,326

Year	Under 5 yrs. of age	5 to 8	8 upwards	Total
1935	123	564	1276	1963
1936	83	83	90	256
1937	62	46	48	156
1938	64	58	32	154
1939	98	224	169	491
1940	202	295	423	920
1941	688	464	174	1326
Total	1320	1734	2212	5266

Scarlet Fever.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever was the same during 1941 as during 1940, 25 cases being notified. This gives us a rate of 0.62 per thousand of the population as compared with 1.47 for the country as a whole.

Three cases were admitted to hospital, or 12 per cent. of the cases notified. There were no deaths from this disease during 1941.

The policy has again been not to admit cases of uncomplicated Scarlet Fever to hospital where they can be adequately nursed at home with proper isolation.

Erysipelas.

6 cases were notified during the year as compared with 8 in 1940. This gives us a rate per thousand of 0.15 as compared with 0.30 for the country as a whole, and 0.20 for 1940.

Pneumonia.

There were 27 cases of Pneumonia notified during the year as compared with 25 in 1940. This gives a case rate per thousand of 0.66 as compared with 1.25 for the country as a whole and 0.62 for 1940.

There were 21 deaths from this disease as compared with 24 in 1940. This gives a mortality rate of 0.52 per thousand of the population as compared with 0.60 for 1940.

Measles.

There were 258 cases of Measles notified during the year compared with 510 in 1940, giving a case rate of 6.29 per thousand as compared with 12.75 for 1940 and 10.33 for the country as a whole.

Whooping Cough.

There were 177 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year compared with 120 in 1940, giving a case rate of 4.32 per thousand as compared with 3.0 for 1940, and 4.39 for the country as a whole. This disease appeared to be of a severe character and there were two deaths during the year.

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis.

There were three cases of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis notified during the year compared with 8 in 1940, giving a case rate of 0.07 per thousand, as compared with 0.20 in 1940 and 0.25 for the country as a whole. There were 3 deaths from this disease (1 male and 2 females). Only one of the cases that died had been previously notified.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

There was one case of Puerperal Pyrexia notified during the year. This was admitted to hospital.

Scabies.

There were 72 cases of Scabies coming to our notice during 1941, but there may have been many more cases of which we had no knowledge. All the cases which were notified were investigated and in every case it was possible to trace a connection with the Services. In most cases the husband was home on leave from the Forces a week or two before the case came to our notice.

Arrangements were made for treatment at the Cleansing Sections of the First-Aid Posts and the trained nurses and the personnel of the Posts willingly helped with this new and not very agreeable task. The agents employed included Rotenone, Benzyl Benzoate and Sulphur Ointment, of which Benzyl Benzoate appeared to be the most effective.

Enteric Fever.

There were 3 cases of Enteric Fever during the year, giving a case rate of 0.07 per thousand, compared with 0.6 for the country as a whole. There were 2 deaths from this disease, one of which was a notified case.

Tuberculosis.

There were 21 deaths from Tuberculosis (12 males and 9 females) during the year as compared with 15 deaths in 1940. 16 of these deaths (9 males and 7 females) occurred in Pulmonary cases. It will be noted that these figures show a regrettable increase on last year.

Abstract of Annual Figures from Register of Tuberculosis Cases.

	Males		Females		Total
	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	
Number on Register 1st Jan., 1941.....	84	39	63	40	226
New Notifications, 1941	18	6	6	7	37
Restored to Register	—	—	2	—	2
Cases brought to notice, otherwise than by formal notification (in ward transfers, un-notified cases from Death Returns) ...	5	1	7	3	16
Removed from Register, Deaths Outward Transfers, Recovered	18	15	14	8	55
Number on Register, 31st Dec., 1941.....	89	31	64	42	226

The following Table shows the age and sex distribution of new cases of Tuberculosis (including cases coming to knowledge other than by formal notification), and a similar distribution of deaths from Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5 to 15 „ ...	1	—	4	4	—	—	3	—
15 to 25 „ ...	3	5	—	1	—	2	—	—
25 to 35 „ ...	1	4	3	1	—	2	—	—
35 to 45 „ ...	5	2	—	2	3	2	—	1
45 to 55 „ ...	9	3	—	1	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 „ ...	2	1	—	1	1	1	—	1
65 and upwards ...	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Total	23	16	7	10	9	7	3	2

Total Deaths from Tuberculosis 21.

Notified within 3 months of death10 or 47.62%.

Cancer and Malignant Disease.

Deaths from Cancer and other forms of Malignant Disease amounted to 63 or 13.29 of the total deaths. Last year the corresponding figure was 46 or 9.16% of the total deaths.

There were 25 deaths amongst males and 38 amongst females.

Laboratory Facilities.

As we have no laboratory in Sale, the specimens were submitted to the Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine of the University of Manchester, and the Laboratory of Evans Biological Institute, Runcorn.

During the year 1941 the following specimens were examined:—

34 throat and nose swabs for Diphtheria none of which was positive (University of Manchester).

178 throat and nose swabs were examined of which 23 were positive (Evans Biological Institute).

4 specimens of sputum were bacteriologically examined for Tubercle Bacillus by the Department of Bacteriology and Preventive Medicine of the University of Manchester. All were negative.

104 specimens of sputum were bacteriologically examined for Tubercle Bacillus by the Public Health Laboratory of the County of Chester, 14 of which were positive.

Widal Tests were done on 11 specimens of blood of which 1 was positive (University of Manchester).

